



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

DIST: 21 FEBRUARY 1991

COUNTRY: EL SALVADOR

SUBJ: JOINT STAFF PERCEPTIONS OF THE JESUIT CASE

DOI: MID-FEBRUARY 1991

TEXT: 1. IN MID-FEBRUARY 1991 OINT GENERAL STAFF (LACEA)

PERCEPTION OF THE JESUIT CASE AND PROGRESS IN THE CASE.

THE ISSUE IS SIMPLY NOT DISCUSSED WITHIN THE EMCFA, AND THAT THE CASE APPEARS TO BE STALLED WITHIN THE SALVADORAN JUDICIAL SYSTEM.

BINCE DECEMBER 1990, WHEN U.S. MILITARY AID TO SALVADOR WAS TENTATIVELY RESTORED, THE JESUIT CASE HAS NOT BEEN AN ISSUE IN THE EMCFA. NEITHER MINISTER OF DEFENSE

Approved for Release

NOV 1993

GENERAL RENE EMILIO ((PONCE)) NOR ARMED FORCES CHIEF OF STAFF GENERAL GILBERTO ((RUBIO)) HAVE RAISED THE ISSUE FOR DISCUSSION AMONG EMCFA STAFF OFFICERS, AND THE TOPIC HAS DISAPPEARED FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES.

SILENCE:

A. NEITHER PONCE NOR RUBIO BELIEVE THEY SHOULD TELL
THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM HOW TO OPERATE, AND APPROACHING PRESIDENT ALFREDO
((CRISTIANI)) TO SOLICIT ACTION IN THE CASE WOULD BE AN AFFRONT TO
CRISTIANI.

B. THE ESAF IS AT A VERY VOLATILE STAGE IN ITS HISTORY. IN LATE 1990 THE ESAF CONSIDERED REDUCING ITS FORCES BY THIRTY PERCENT, AND MORALE SUFFERED. AFTER THE FARABUNDO MARTI LIBERATION FRONT (FMLN) NOVEMBER 1990 OFFENSIVE, THE ESAF SHELVED REDUCTION PLANS, AND BEGAN TO INCREASE ITS RANKS, AS WELL AS EMPHASIZING COMBAT EFFICIENCY. THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN AND ATTENDANT FMLN VIOLENCE, ALONG WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF ANOTHER FMLN NATIONAL LEVEL OFFENSIVE, HAVE MADE SENIOR ESAF OFFICERS LOATHE TO UPSET THE DELICATE SITUATION WHICH THE ESAF IS CURRENTLY EXPERIENCING IN TERMS OF MORALE, MISSION EFFECTIVENESS AND TROOP STRENGTH. CONSEQUENTLY, THE EMCFA WILL LIKELY IGNORE THE JESUIT CASE UNTIL CIRCUMSTANCES DICTATE OTHERWISE.

